

# MWBC Ministry Readiness Packet

## Serving Churches in Unstable and Disruptive Environments

*Prepared for immediate use by MWBC churches and similar ministry contexts*

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## 1. A Word to Church Leaders

Church leaders today are navigating a different landscape than even a few years ago. Most challenges churches face are not extreme or dramatic; they are subtle, relational, and disruptive rather than violent. Unwanted behavior, protests, mental health crises, and situational instability now require thoughtful preparation that protects worship without turning ministry into security theater.

This packet exists to help churches think clearly about readiness in a way that is calm, pastorally grounded, and immediately usable. It is not a mandate. It is a tool. Use what fits your context, ignore what does not, and adapt as needed.

The goal is simple: protect the momentum of worship while caring well for people.

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## 2. How to Use This Packet

This packet is designed to be:

- Read quickly
- Used immediately
- Revisited as needed

Recommended use:

- Review with pastors and ministry leaders
- Walk through the Sunday Readiness Worksheet
- Use the huddle guidance with greeters and volunteers
- Identify one or two gaps to address first

You do not need to implement everything at once.

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### 3. Sunday Readiness Worksheet (Adapted)

This worksheet helps leaders assess how Sundays actually function, not how they are assumed to function.

Key areas to review:

- Entry points and flow of people
- Who is responsible for greeting and early engagement
- How children are checked in and out
- How volunteers communicate concerns
- What happens if something feels “off” but not dangerous

The purpose is awareness, not alarm.

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### 4. Pre-Service Huddle Guidance

A five-minute huddle before services can prevent most issues churches experience.

Focus the huddle on:

- Who is greeting and where
- Any known events, protests, or community tension
- Reminder: engage early, kindly, and visibly
- Who to notify if something changes
- Reinforcing that volunteers are there to support worship, not police it
- Pray together

Tone matters. Calm presence lowers tension.

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### 5. Disruption and Unwanted Behavior Guidance

Most disruptions do not require force or removal.

Key principles:

- Engage early rather than observe passively
- Behavior matters more than appearance
- Losing visual contact should prompt communication, not panic
- Ownership must be clear: who follows up if contact is lost
- Escalation should be based on actions, not assumptions

When in doubt:

- Introduce yourself
  - Offer help
  - Ask simple questions
  - Loop in leadership early
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## **6. Children's Ministry Considerations**

Children's areas require extra intentionality.

Minimum considerations:

- Limited entry and exit points
- Consistent check-in and check-out
- Volunteers who know what "normal" looks like
- Clear response if an unknown adult enters the space

Safety here builds trust far beyond Sunday morning.

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## **7. Volunteer Health and Sustainability**

Burned-out volunteers create blind spots.

Churches should intentionally:

- Rotate coverage so volunteers attend worship regularly
- Reinforce that spiritual grounding matters
- Avoid over-identification with "security" roles
- Treat volunteers as ministry partners, not assets

Healthy teams are safer teams.

## **8. Final Encouragement**

Readiness does not compete with worship; it supports it.

When churches prepare calmly and intentionally, most problems are resolved quietly, people feel cared for, and ministry continues uninterrupted.

This packet is a starting point. If additional guidance is helpful, deeper support can be layered without replacing what already works.

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*Prepared by the242momentum*